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## NEW IN BLUE

Jets trade Leonard Williams to Giants in first swap deal between teams in 36 years. 17

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Discover how Alfonso Gomez-Rejon 'broke the rules' with the Director's Cut of his latest film. 13

NY Comedy Festival returns and we have inside scoop about this year festivities. 16



Thousands of demonstrators protested Donald Trump's visit to Chicago outside Trump International Hotel & Tower Monday. The president proceeded to stoke their fires, stating of their hometown that "Afghanistan is a safe place by comparison." Outcry was widespread. 6

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Report details Russian interference in 2016 election.

President Donald Trump's administration on Monday said it has appealed a judge's ruling ordering it to turn over an unredacted copy of former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report detailing Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election to a Democratic-led congressional committee.

In a filing in federal court, the Justice Department also asked U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell to put on hold her Friday order while the appeal is pending. Howell directed the administration to turn over the unredacted report to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee by Wednesday, while also validating the legality of the impeachment inquiry against Trump.

The department previously tried to block Democrats from accessing the full Mueller report, saying that doing so would require the disclosure of secret grand jury materials and potentially harm ongoing investigations. The Judiciary Committee issued a subpoena seeking the full report.

"A stay is warranted because, without a stay, the department will be irreparably harmed,"

# Trump administration appeals order to turn over unredacted Mueller report



U.S. President Donald Trump (left) and Robert Mueller (right). GETTY IMAGES

the department wrote in its notice to the court. "Once that information is disclosed, it cannot be recalled, and the confidentiality of the grand jury information will be lost for all time."

The judge ordered the House Judiciary Committee to respond to the department's requested stay by noon on Tuesday. The administration's appeal went to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit.

The scathing 75-page opinion by Howell, the chief judge in her federal judicial district, blasted the White House and

Justice Department for "stonewalling" House subpoenas for information in the impeachment inquiry and declared that there was no need for the House to pass a resolution formally launching the probe.

The ruling undercut claims by Trump and fellow Republicans in Congress who have attacked the process House Democrats have used.

Mueller submitted his report to U.S. Attorney General William Barr in March after completing a 22-month investigation that detailed Russia's campaign of hacking and propaganda to boost

**"Once that information is disclosed, it cannot be recalled, and the confidentiality of the grand jury information will be lost for all time."**

The Justice Department

or redacted.

Trump's candidacy in the 2016 election as well as extensive contacts between Trump's campaign and Moscow.

Barr, a Trump appointee who Democrats have accused of trying to protect the president politically, in April released the 448-page report with some parts blacked out,

of foreign interference in a U.S. election.

"According to public statements made by the Speaker of the House, the Mueller report is not the current focus of impeachment activity," the department wrote.

The department added that it believes the appellate court will agree that Democrats have "not demonstrated a particularized need for the grand jury information in light of the information already in the public domain and the much different focus of ongoing impeachment proceedings in the House." REUTERS

## EU agrees to Brexit delay, December election blocked

**2** The European Union agreed to a Brexit delay of up to three months on Monday, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he would push on with his bid to end Britain's political paralysis with an election on Dec. 12. With the United Kingdom's scheduled Oct. 31 departure from the EU now virtually certain to be postponed, Brexit hangs in the balance, with British politicians still arguing over how, when or even whether

the divorce should take place at all. Johnson, who had loudly promised to deliver Brexit on Oct. 31, "do or die," has repeatedly demanded an election to end what he casts as a nightmare political deadlock that is sapping public trust by preventing any Brexit outcome at all. Hours after the 27 countries remaining in the EU backed his reluctant request for a delay, Johnson attempted to force a snap election on Dec. 12. REUTERS

## New streaming TV services to end binge watching?

**3** In 2013, Netflix Inc shook up television by delivering 13 episodes of "House of Cards" in one batch, a move that helped popularize streaming video and fueled a culture of binge watching. But Apple Inc, Walt Disney Co and AT&T Inc are largely rejecting that path as they prepare their own efforts to hook the online audiences that embraced Netflix. Executives at AT&T's forthcoming HBO

Max, a streaming service that will be unveiled to investors on Tuesday, plan to debut one new episode of its original series per week, Robert Greenblatt, chairman of WarnerMedia Entertainment and the company's direct-to-consumer business, told Reuters. That mirrors the traditional TV pattern. "We like the idea that people watch weekly and look forward to the next episode and talk about it," Greenblatt said. REUTERS

## LA wildfires: Thousands told to evacuate

**4** Wind-whipped flames chased thousands of residents from some of Los Angeles' wealthiest neighborhoods and threatened the famed Getty Center museum on Monday, the latest outbreak in a wildfire season that has triggered mass evacuations and power outages across California. The fire erupted in the vicinity of the Getty Center at around 1:30 a.m. and by daybreak had swept across more than 500

acres (202 hectares) in the scrub-covered hills around Interstate 405, near some of the city's most expensive homes. Basketball great LeBron James, "Terminator" star and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Agents of SHIELD" actor Clark Gregg and "Sons of Anarchy" creator Kurt Sutter all said on Twitter they had been forced to flee their homes. Commuters posted videos of flames on social media. REUTERS



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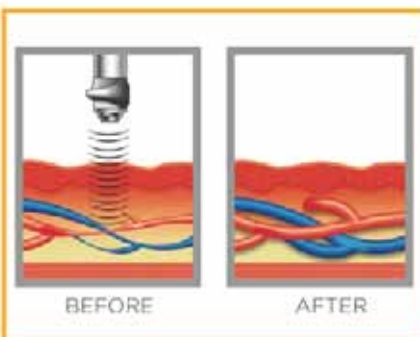
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## NEWS



Randy Santos has been charged with four counts of murder in connection to the beating deaths of four homeless men who were killed as they slept.

GETTY IMAGES

# Accused Chinatown bludgeoner pleads not guilty

**"I never thought he would kill someone. I was afraid of him, though, because he punched me. That's when I told him to get out of my house."**

Fioraliza Rodriguez

Santos, who is homeless, is being held at the Bellevue Hospital jail ward. He has 14 past arrests, including an assault charge from May. After his arrest his mother, Fioraliza Rodriguez, said she'd kicked him out of her house three years ago because he was addicted to drugs, assaulted her and his grandfather and stole from the family. "I never thought he would kill someone," Rodriguez told the Daily News. "I was afraid of him, though, because he punched me. That's when I told him to get out of my house."

After the killing spree, NYC officials deployed additional homeless outreach resources to Chinatown.

a Daily News report. "He hit him seven times about the head causing blunt force trauma." Santos then turned his attention to a group of men, again using the metal pipe in the beating.

Investigators reportedly located Santos a few blocks away, holding the bloody pipe.

All four men died of blunt impact head trauma with skull fractures and brain injury,

according to the medical examiner. The victims were identified as Chuen Kwok, 83, Nazario Vazquez Villegas, 55, and Anthony Manson, 49. The fourth victim has yet to be identified and a fifth victim survived the attack.

Investigators have yet to identify a motive in the violent attacks; police have said it doesn't seem anybody was targeted by race or age.

Randy Santos may use a psychiatric defense.



MORGAN ROUSSEAU  
morgan@metro.us

A man charged with bludgeoning four homeless men to death on the streets of Chinatown pleaded not guilty to the

heinous slayings.

Randy Santos, 24, appeared in State Supreme Court in Manhattan on Monday for an arraignment on murder charges in connection with the Oct. 5 murders, in which Santos is accused of using a pipe to kill the homeless men. Santos' not guilty plea likely lines him up for a psychiatric defense, accord-

ing to reports.

Santos entered his plea through a Spanish translator, and a prosecutor recounted the brutal beatings which began just before 2 a.m. on East Broadway in Chinatown.

"He began his first attack on a sleeping homeless individual," prosecutor Alfred Peterson said in court, according to

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A supporter and a protester express their feelings as they stand side-by-side during a demonstration across the river from Trump International Hotel and Tower while U.S. President Donald Trump visits in Chicago, Illinois, on October 28, 2019.

REUTERS

# Trump rips Chicago as more dangerous than Afghanistan

President denounces city while paying visit for first time since 2017.

U.S. President Donald Trump came not to praise Chicago but to condemn it – and did he ever.

In remarks to a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Trump said Chicago with its high rate of murders compared unfavorably with Afghanistan, where the United States has been at war since an invasion triggered by the

Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"It's embarrassing to us as a nation. All over the world, they're talking about Chicago. Afghanistan is a safe place by comparison, it's true," said Trump.

Trump also blasted Chicago Police Superin-

tendent Eddie Johnson, who had refused to attend the event to express opposition to the Republican president, who was making his first trip to the heavily Democratic city since taking office in early 2017.

"Here's a man that

**"Luckily, in this city, we know the truth and we will not let anyone — no matter how high the office — denigrate who we are as a people or our status as a welcoming city."**

Mayor Lori Lightfoot

could not bother to show up for a meeting of police chiefs — the most respected people in the country — in his hometown and with the president of the United States. And you know why? It's because he's not doing his job," Trump said of Johnson.

Homicides in Chicago in 2018 numbered 561, down from 653 in 2017. The Chicago Tribune said 436 homicides had been recorded so far in 2019 in the third most-populous U.S. city.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a Democrat, responded to Trump on Twitter, saying it was no surprise that Trump "brought his insulting, ignorant buffoonery to Chicago."

"Luckily, in this city, we know the truth and

we will not let anyone — no matter how high the office — denigrate who we are as a people or our status as a welcoming city," she said.

A few thousand people rallied outside of Trump Tower in Chicago, where Trump was inside raising about \$4 million for his 2020 re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee.

They held signs protesting Trump and his presidency, banged on drums and blew whistles. "Impeach and convict" read one sign.

Retired suburban teacher Claudia Feeney, 68, said Trump should be impeached.

"He's a disgrace to the presidency and a danger to the country," she said. **REUTERS**

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This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

It's amazing when patients who were once in excruciating pain... start feeling better. And start walking again. And playing golf. Or tennis. And finally getting their lives back.

Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

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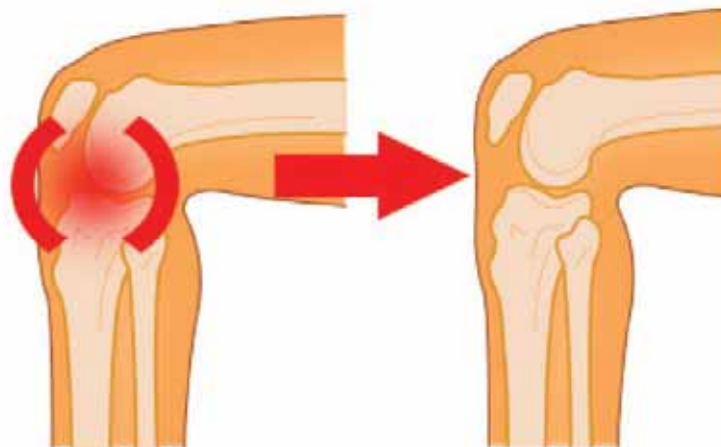
While I can't give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: **PATIENT SELECTION.**

This means, **NYC Pain MD** has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that **NYC Pain MD** offers.

If you do not, **NYC Pain MD** will tell you what they think your best options are and help



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**NYC Pain MD** has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

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offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At **NYC Pain MD** your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

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# Trump says U.S. may release parts of Baghdadi raid video

He died "whimpering and crying and screaming," Trump claims.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he may declassify and release part of the video taken on Saturday of the raid in Syria in which Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed.

The video is believed to include aerial footage and possibly footage from cameras mounted on the soldiers who stormed Baghdadi's compound.

"We're thinking about it. We may," Trump told reporters before flying to Chicago. "We may take certain parts of it and release it."

Trump said on Sunday

that Baghdadi had died "whimpering and crying" in a raid by U.S. special forces in Syria, fulfilling his top national security goal.

World leaders welcomed Baghdadi's death, but said the campaign against Islamic State, a group that carried out atrocities in the name of a fanatical version of Islam, was not over, with so-called lone wolves likely to seek revenge.

Baghdadi, who had led the jihadist group since 2010, killed himself by detonating a suicide vest after fleeing into a dead-end tunnel as U.S. forces closed in, Trump said in a televised address from the White House.

"He was a sick and depraved man and now he's

gone," said Trump. "He died ... whimpering and crying and screaming."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to say if the United States had told Russia about the operation in advance.

But he added: "If this information is confirmed we can talk about a serious contribution by the president of the United States to the fight against international terrorism."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Baghdadi's death was a major blow against Islamic State but "the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organization."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will work with our coalition partners to bring an end to the murder-



A man purported to be the reclusive leader of the militant Islamic State Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

REUTERS

ous, barbaric activities of Daesh (Islamic State) once and for all."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters: "This is a many-headed monster ... As you cut one off, another one inevitably arises."

In Southeast Asia, an important focus for Islamic State, officials said security forces were preparing for a long battle to thwart the group's ideology.

The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organized Islamist militants,

said they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by radicalized locals.

Though Baghdadi's death will unsettle Islamic State, it remains capable and dangerous, said Delfin Lorenzana, defense secretary of the Philippines, where the group's influence has taken a hold in its troubled Mindanao region.

"This is a blow to the organization considering al-Baghdadi's stature as a leader. But this is just a momentary setback con-

sidering the depth and reach of the organization worldwide," Lorenzana said. "Somebody will take his place."

Islamic State has not declared a successor as leader. But the group has in the past proved resilient, continuing to mount or inspire attacks in the region and beyond despite losing most of its territory in recent years.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the "impressive achievement."

REUTERS

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## Missouri cites 'serious concerns' about safety in seeking to shut abortion clinic

The fate of Missouri's only abortion clinic was at stake on Monday, as a state arbiter heard arguments from Planned Parenthood and state officials who have threatened to close it and make Missouri the sole U.S. state without legal abortion services.

Planned Parenthood, the women's healthcare and abortion provider that operates the facility, sued the state health department in June for its refusal to renew the St. Louis clinic's license. The state court judge presiding over the case referred the matter to the Administrative Hearing Commission, an independent arbiter.

The hearing, which is expected to last several days, began on Monday with opening statements from both sides and testimony from state witness Donna Harrison, a doctor and director of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



A banner stating "STILL HERE" hangs on the side of the Planned Parenthood Building after a judge granted a temporary restraining order on the closing of Missouri's sole remaining Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis. **REUTERS**

Missouri Solicitor General John Sauer said on Monday that the state has "very serious concerns about the safety of patients" at the clinic after at least four patients had failed abortions there.

Planned Parenthood has argued that the clinic should remain open to guarantee the constitutional right of the 1 million women of child-

bearing age in Missouri to receive an abortion.

Missouri health officials earlier this year declined to renew the clinic's license on the grounds that it failed to meet their standards, which included mandatory interviews with several physicians involved in what the health department said were multiple life-threatening abortions at the clinic.

**REUTERS**



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# 'Global ring' involved in smuggling 39 found dead in UK truck, court told

Arrested 25-year-old driver the tip of the iceberg.

A court heard on Monday that a global ring had been involved in smuggling the 39 people whose bodies were found in a truck near London, as the driver faced charges of manslaughter and people-trafficking.

The discovery of the bodies last week in a refrigerated truck on an industrial estate near London has shone a spotlight on the illicit trade that sends the poor of Asia, Africa and the Middle East on perilous journeys to the West.

The truck's driver, Maurice Robinson, appeared in Chelmsford Magistrates' Court via video link. The 25-year-old, wearing a gray sweatshirt, spoke only to confirm his name, address and British nationality.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson signs a book of condolence during a visit to Thurrock Council Offices in Grays, Britain. REUTERS

Robinson faces 43 charges in all - 39 counts of manslaughter as well as accusations of conspiracy to traffic people, conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration, and money laundering.

"This involves a global ring facilitating the movement of a large number of immigrants into the UK," prosecution lawyer Ogheneruona Mercy Iguyovwe told the court. She

said other suspects were still being sought.

Robinson did not apply for bail. He was remanded in custody until Nov. 25, when the case will continue at the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court, and he will enter a plea.

He was arrested shortly after the bodies were found near the English port of Purfleet. The shipping container they were

in had traveled from Zeebrugge in Belgium.

"The whole nation and indeed the world has been shocked by this tragedy, and the cruelty of the fate that has been suffered by innocent people who were hoping for a better life in this country," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson wrote in a book of condolences.

Interior minister Priti Patel told parliament the investigation would unravel "criminality that could stretch half way across the world."

Many of the dead appear to have come from Vietnam's northern rice-growing areas of Nghe An and Ha Tinh, two of its poorest provinces.

"If I could travel back in time, I wouldn't have let him go this way," said Hoang Thi Ai, mother of Hoang Van Tiep, 18, who is feared to be among the dead. "I clean his room ev-

ery day with the hope that he wasn't in that deadly truck."

**"This involves a global ring facilitating the movement of a large number of immigrants into the UK."**

Ogheneruona  
Mercy Iguyovwe

Police have said few of the victims were carrying official identification, and that they are resorting to fingerprints, dental records, DNA and photographs from friends and relatives.

Vietnam said Britain

had sent dossiers seeking help in identifying four of the bodies.

Deputy Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son said Vietnam was still unable to confirm the nationality of any of the victims.

Bui Thi Nhung, 19, is believed by her family to be one of the dead.

They said she had left Nghe An in August, making her way from China to Germany, then Belgium, where they believe she entered the container.

About 70 percent of Vietnamese trafficking cases in Britain between 2009 and 2016 were for labor exploitation, including cannabis production and work in nail salons, Britain said last year.

A report last March by the Pacific Links Foundation, a U.S.-based anti-trafficking organization, identified Nghe An as home to many victims of human trafficking. REUTERS

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## Chicago teachers strike continues after talks fail to break impasse

Classes were canceled for about 300,000 students in Chicago for an eighth day on Monday as the teachers' union and public school district failed over the weekend to resolve a deadlock in contract talks over class sizes, support staff levels and pay.

Each side blamed the other for the impasse in the third-largest U.S. school district, where the strike began on Oct. 17, and the union, which represents the city's 25,000 teachers, has been without a contract since July 1.

The strike is the latest in a wave of work stoppages in U.S. school districts in which demands for school resources have superseded calls for higher salaries and benefits. In Chicago and elsewhere, teachers have emphasized the need to help underfunded schools, framing their demands as a call for social justice.

The strike in Chicago is



REUTERS

**"We are enormously disappointed that CTU cannot simply take yes for an answer, [including] a big, 16% raise for teachers."**

Mayor Lori Lightfoot

the second longest in recent memory. A teachers strike in Union City, California, in June lasted three weeks.

The union wants smaller class sizes, more support staff, a contract that runs three years instead of five and more paid prep-time for elementary

school teachers.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive Janice Jackson blasted the Chicago Teachers Union in a joint news conference on Sunday for not accepting the school system's offer.

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4		8			7			
5							7	3
				2		9		
2				3				8
		1		4				
9	5							1
			5			3		7
	1			8	2			

HARD

	7				6			
		8						2
9	4		8		7			
7					5			
1	8		7		5		4	6
		9						7
			2		1		9	5
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Anonymous, Metro New York reader



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**Taurus** Set the pace you want to maintain, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Your drive and attention to detail will set you apart from any competition.



**Gemini** Keep an open mind, but know your limitations. Refuse to become consumed by someone else's plan. It's up to you to set your ideas in motion and to reap the rewards.



**Cancer** Imagination, drive and determination will be essential. You are on the road to a better future, so don't fear the changes heading your way. Embrace personal improvements.



**Leo** Listen carefully, observe the changes going on around you and consider how best to use your skills to improve your situation. Experience and knowledge will pay off.



**Virgo** A positive change is heading your way. Travel, education and spending time with people you find enlightening will play a role in the decisions you make. Romance is heightened.



**Libra** Get charged up about something worthwhile, instead of worrying about someone's petty comment. If you focus on self-improvement and doing your best, you will get ahead.



**Scorpio** Emotions can be shared, and issues can be resolved. Have a solution in mind and be willing to compromise. A good partnership will bring out the best in both parties.



**Sagittarius** Keep your personal matters, passwords and possessions a secret. Sharing too much information will put you in a vulnerable position. Play it safe and avoid regret.



**Capricorn** A change of plans will work to your advantage. Embrace whatever challenge you face with enthusiasm. Someone you encounter will interest you. A relationship will influence how you move forward.



**Aquarius** Take a moment to absorb what's going on around you before you respond to it. Try not to draw attention to yourself, as you'll accomplish more if you work quietly on your own.



**Pisces** Keep your plan in perspective. If you aim too high, you'll fall short. But if you pace yourself carefully, you'll come out a winner. Romance is encouraged. EUGENIA LAST

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## LIFESTYLE

## A bright future

Nicholas Hoult as  
Nikola Tesla.  
DEAN ROGERS

Alfonso Gomez-Rejon talks "breaking the rules" with the Director's Cut of "The Current War."



MOLLY GIVEN  
Molly.Given@metro.us

In 2017, Alfonso Gomez-Rejon's period-piece "The Current War" starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Michael Shannon was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and overall, the film was not well received. Throw in the mess that was the Weinstein Company (who produced the film) and the historical drama was almost lost altogether.

Two years, five fresh scenes, multiple re-shoots and a new score later, audiences now get "The Current War" Director's Cut, almost unrecognizable from the Toronto screening — exactly what

this epic story needed. Gomez-Rejon's vision finally shines through this cut, and the director wanted nothing more than to break the rules with his latest feature. The film takes place in the past, but there is nothing dated about it; on the contrary, it's quite cutting-edge — almost as if you really do dive into the brilliant minds of men like Thomas Edison or Nikola Tesla and see what they saw — the future.

Gomez-Rejon sat down with Metro to talk about his inspirations for the re-shoots, his connection to the film and what he hopes audiences take away from this futuristic look into the past.

**Why were you initially drawn to this story and why was it important for it to be told?**

I thought it was less so about electricity and Edison and Westinghouse as it was about this epic rival-

ry between parts of myself and us as human beings — which I also thought could be something universal. It's the ego and ambition, and how far someone will go to be remembered or to win. When that stake is the creation of the modern world as we know it, I just thought there was something beautiful and emotional about that epic battle in addition to it being based on true events. It was the emotion behind it that [motivated me] to do a little bit of self-exploration — and there were also some things that I was still working through from my last film "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" regarding grief and my father. I really responded to Edison and how he was continuing to work through the loss of his wife and keeping her alive through his work. He was in such denial that she had been taken from him and nature had

won. I thought that was an incredibly emotional journey that I wanted to take on as well. It's about legacy, it's about mortality and there's this presence of mother nature throughout the film as well — which was the ultimate winner of the war in my opinion — that was important. Plus, I get to make a movie in the past about the future — what would that feel like? To me, it felt very contemporary, and that intrigued me. We wanted to break some rules because the men who we focus on the film were the ultimate rulebreakers.

**You really did achieve a futuristic look for a movie that is set in the past, can you tell me a little more about how you made that happen?**

Every department who worked on this film from makeup, to production, to costumes — everything was about interpreting the

feeling of the moment, not just getting everything exactly as it was. It's all about interpreting the past and finding something that felt true and honest. For example, the inspiration for Tesla wasn't going to be the real Tesla but it was going to be David Bowie, or there were Jagger and Dillon influences. That is what I believe brings out the best in artists that I surround myself with because they are not looking for the exact same replica. That's just no fun. It makes it all feel like an art project and the approach to it was to break some rules along the way and just be in the moment with the actors. The opening shot of the film was important, it should feel futuristic but it's also about the characters. Edison as a person is a show, and in the opening shot, he is literally in the middle of this ring of light because he's a showman. Then you meet Westinghouse and he's in a domestic setting having a quiet moment with his wife anticipating the arrival of his hero for dinner who he wants to break bread with, and that says a lot about him. But overall [the film] is all about going to the edge and trying to create an experience.

**The film's release is automatically a director's cut, why were the re-shoots important for you?**

The reason it's called the director's cut was because there was an earlier version of the film that screened at the Toronto Film Festival in 2017 and it was a very rushed, very compromised work in

progress in the middle of a very chaotic time from something that would eventually collapse. That defined me, the legacy of the film and the film's future because of that very powerful and very public screening. This was an opportunity for the studio to hear me out — and they gave me that as a studio. Martin Scorsese was also able to give me the gift of time and clarity and freedom to find the movie that I intended to make from the beginning. In that process, there were a handful of scenes that I had intended to shoot early on that were cut for financial reasons. The clarity that time gave me allowed me to see the missing pieces of the puzzle. Time, clarity and finance allowed me to shoot five additional scenes and produce a new score — but even with the five added scenes, the film is still ten minutes shorter than the Toronto cut. Of course, as a filmmaker, or maybe as a perfectionist, I only see the mistakes. But I am really proud of this movie, and this version of the movie is the version I intended for the world to see. It captured the energy and the emotion that I wanted the film to have.

**Overall what do you hope people now take away from this new director's cut of "The Current War?"**

I hope for other filmmakers and artists it shows that art is worth fighting for and that sometimes you do get a second chance.

**"The Current War" Director's Cut is now in theaters.**

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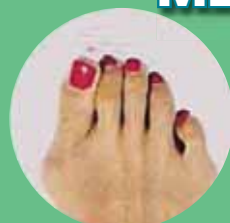


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# 'Anything I write has to be personal'

X Ambassadors singer Sam Harris talks band's latest album and tour.



**MOLLY GIVEN**  
Molly.Given@metro.us

Alternative rock band X Ambassadors has always poured plenty of heart and soul into their music, and according to the band's singer Sam Harris, it's practically impossible for them not to. Aside from X Ambassadors' latest album "Orion" showcasing the band's "next chapter," Harris and the rest of the New York-native group wanted to enhance their sound for everyone by releasing an app that creates audio-only music videos for the visually impaired, inspired by member Casey Harris, who was born blind. Sam Harris sat down with Metro to discuss the band's latest album, tour and dive into why their music is what keeps them going

emotionally.

**What went into making your latest album, "Orion?"**

This album took a while. We put our first record out in 2015 and went on the road for about two solid years after that — that's when we first started to work on the follow-up. We actually ended up creating some great material that we were proud of, but then looking back at it we just felt like it wasn't cohesive enough. It just wasn't what we wanted our next chapter to sound like. So we got off the road finally and we took the rest of 2018 to crack down on it and get it to a point where we were proud of it. It felt like a natural progression for us as a band — not a crazy leap, but still something that we felt pushed us artistically and creatively in a new and exciting direction. It's a very emotional record and there is a lot of personal stuff in there. Dealing with the end of a relationship is potentially

what it is, and then also the beginning of a new life and a new chapter. A lot of it also came from one of the original members of our band and one of my best friends from childhood. He ended up leaving the band for a lot of different reasons and he struggled with a lot of demons. It was really hard to let him go, so a big part of the record is for him and about him, or at least it was for me personally.

**You also write for other artists such as Lizzo. Does the process change at all when writing for yourself versus writing for other people?**

The process is always the same — anything I write has to be personal. The fun thing is when I write something that's personal for another artist, if they find it personal too that means that I've really tapped into something that is universally loved by more than just me. It's like whispering a secret out to the world and

someone else hears it and may relate completely. Then they tell another person and they also relate, so it's a really cool way to connect with people and connect with other artists. For instance, working with Lizzo, she is just so genuine in who she is and as a songwriter, she really knows what she wants to say. Writing for someone like her is really me facilitating words and music to help show what she's feeling, but everything I throw out there has some sort of subconscious meaning to me.

**I saw you also created an app that creates audio-only music videos for the visually impaired. Can you tell me more about your inspirations for "Boom?"**

My brother Casey, who plays in the band with us, was born blind. He has about ten percent of his vision, and we always wanted to create a media experience that my brother can get something out

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X Ambassadors are now on tour. PHOTO KOHLI

of too. Every time we create a music video it's kind of just like listening to the song for him, he's always said that. So slowly over the years, we've tried to do things like incorporating live sound into our music videos — just different things to give him more of a unique experience when consuming it as well. [The app] is an audio-only experience and you can choose to experience it in either the sonic landscape of Ithaca, New York where we're from or Bushwick, New York where the band started. It's 360 sound, so

if you hear something to your left or behind you and you turn to face it, you'll hear it front and center. You're listening to the sounds of the environment around you like Casey would have heard in Ithaca or in Bushwick while the song is playing simultaneously.

**What do you like the most about performing your music live in front of audiences on tour?**

It's the thing that keeps me going emotionally. It's a really hard industry to be in and break into and at every level it's

hard and exhausting. Sometimes it's easy to feel like you're creating stuff in sort of a vacuum. I struggle with feeling very lost and depressed, and getting out in front of a crowd and seeing our fans who really connect with our music and who have taken the time out of their busy lives to come to a venue, pay money to see us, stand on their feet all night and sing their hearts out to our songs — that is just the greatest affirmation and gift that any of us could ever get. *Catch X Ambassadors at Terminal 5 on Oct. 30.*

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# The NY Comedy Festival returns for its 16th year

We spoke with festival organizer Caroline Hirsch about this year's festivities.



PAT KING  
patrick.king@metro.us

Caroline Hirsch, the owner of the storied and famous comedy club Carolines, can't believe how far she has come. As a producer of the NY Comedy Festival, she has spent the past 16 years making this week-long event grow into one of the best showcases of stand-up in the country and a place where many of the biggest names in comedy first came into their own.

The festival, running from Nov. 4 through Nov. 10, has really come a long way from its humble beginnings, as Hirsch and the rest of the festival's organizers are now producing shows in places generally reserved for basketball games instead of punchlines.



"When we started with Trevor Noah it was with a small venue years ago, and now we're producing Trevor Noah at Madison Square Garden, which is like 15,000 seats," remembers Hirsch. "We have over 150 shows with probably 300 comedians participating. When you go back to the beginning of it, it was maybe seven shows. Now we have all of these festival shows

that we're really proud of. You get to develop and see a lot of talent coming through before they really explode."

This year's festival boasts an amazing lineup of comedians, podcast tapings, discussions and other hilarious events. This year's lineup includes: "Comedy Bang! Bang!," Bill Maher, Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah, Tom Segura, Nicole

Byer, Vir Das, Nick Kroll, Norm MacDonald, Nate Bargatze, Jenny Slate, Jena Friedman, panels for both the writers of "SNL" and the "Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj" and the Stand Up for Heroes event hosted by Jon Stewart.

While there are many other smaller shows that will host comedians that are surely primed to break through in the future, Hirsch first came up

with the idea for this festival as a way to work with comedians who first got their start at Carolines, but could not necessarily come back after their rise to success.

"A lot of the people I work with at larger venues passed through Carolines years ago. So this gives me the opportunity to work with them again at a larger venue. That was kind of the inspiration to create the festival to begin with. We started with the idea at the festival at the 20th anniversary that we had for Carolines at Carnegie Hall. We got to work with everyone that we used to work with at the club like Jon Stewart, Lewis Black and Dennis Leary. We worked with them there and said, 'Why don't we do more of this?'" explains Hirsch.

This year's festival will host a few new events, including "Hungry For Laughs," which will pair some of the finest chefs in the city with

sets from stand-up comedians, including host Randy Rainbow, with all proceeds from this event going towards the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Another new event is the Female Quotient Lounge at Bloomingdale's. This two-day event will bring comedians and big names in the industry to discuss the issues of female representation and proper compensation into comedy.

The festival is even making its way into Brooklyn for shows at clubs like The Bell House and Union Hall, as well as a big show at the Murr Theater with Pete Holmes.

"We're giving economic development to the city. That's what we do," jokes Hirsch. "We give economic development to people that compete with me. That's okay, though. It's all in the festival fun."

For more information on the NY Comedy Festival, head over to [nycomedyfestival.com](http://nycomedyfestival.com).



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# Giants acquire Williams from Jets

G-Men give up draft picks to in-stadium rivals.



JOE PANTORNO  
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

We have an intra-stadium trade.

The New York Giants have acquired defensive end Leonard Williams from their co-MetLife Stadium tenants, the New York Jets, for a 2020 third-round draft pick and a 2021 fifth-round draft pick, as first reported by ESPN's Adam Schefter.

The Jets will also be paying \$4 million of the \$6 million owed to Williams this season.

It's the first time ever that the two teams have executed a trade together.

Williams will be a



Leonard Williams becomes the first player ever to move in a trade between the New York Jets and Giants. GETTY IMAGES

free agent following this season, but the Giants' decision to acquire him amidst a 2-6 season suggests that they fully intend to get an extension done.

The 25-year-old was selected sixth overall in the 2015 draft out of USC where he's built a

rather inconsistent career resume in the NFL.

While he's yet to miss a game, appearing in all 71 games over the past four-plus seasons, Williams' sack totals have taken a nosedive over the past three years.

After putting up seven sacks in his sec-

ond year in the league (2016), Williams has a combined seven sacks over his last 39 games — including zero through seven this season. Those inconsistencies saw him quickly fall out of favor with the Jets, especially on a defense that ranks 20th in the NFL in 2019.

Since his introduction into the pros in 2015, however, Williams still ranks 10th amongst all defensive ends in the NFL with 90 quarterback hits while his 240 combined tackles ranks fifth.

For the Jets, it provides further draft capi-

tal as general manager Joe Douglas starts a new rebuild to carry the Jets out of the Mike Maccagnan era.

For the Giants, they will be hoping that Williams can add a legitimate edge-rushing presence to justify paying such a heavy price for the struggling defensive end. It's worth noting that last season, the Giants traded Damon Harrison — one of the top run-stopping defensive linemen in the game — to the Detroit Lions for just a fifth-round pick.

General manager Dave Gettleman has committed plenty of resources into the defensive line during his tenure with the Giants. He spent a third-round pick on BJ Hill in 2018 and a first-rounder on Dexter Lawrence this April.

The duo has combined for two of the Giants' 22 sacks through eight games this season (Lawrence has both).

## Yankees fire Larry Rothschild

A 103-win season and a trip to the ALCS was not enough to save parts of the New York Yankees' coaching staff.

Pitching coach Larry Rothschild is out after nine seasons, per multiple reports.

The 65-year-old became the poster child for the Achilles heel of the 2019 Yankees, which was its pitching — specifically the starting rotation.

New York failed to obtain a true ace as general manager Brian Cashman did not pull the trigger on a blockbuster arm at the trade deadline this season.

In an attempt to support perceived ace Luis Severino before the 2019 season, he traded for James Paxton from the Seattle Mariners — who was immediately expected to step up into a No. 2 role in a big market despite never experiencing a true top-end workload while experiencing problems giving up home runs.

Behind them, Masahiro Tanaka rounded out a promising top three while J.A. Happ was making his return to the Bronx after an impressive 11-start stint during the second



GETTY IMAGES

half of the 2018 season in which he went 7-0 with a 2.69 ERA.

But Severino got hurt — shelved for most of the season as he dealt with a shoulder and lat issues. Paxton was a first-half liability before righting the ship in the second half while Happ never really sorted things out.

Tanaka was inconsistent and veteran lefty CC Sabathia's availability — let alone his production — was a wild card in his final season in the pros.

Domingo German was the pleasant surprise of the season, going 18-4 with a 4.03 ERA before he was suspended by Major League Baseball when charged with sexual assault.

New York's starting rotation finished off the

regular season with a 4.51 ERA, which ranked 15th in the majors.

Their inability to go deep into games — which also had to do with Aaron Boone's reliance on one of the game's best bullpens — turned out to be a major flaw that couldn't get them past the Houston Astros in the ALCS. However, an inability to get timely hits certainly didn't help, either.

Tanaka, Paxton, and Severino — the three Yankees starters used in the ALCS — combined to throw just 23.2 of 54.2 total innings of the six-game series. They were no match for Houston's big three of Gerrit Cole, Zack Greinke, and Justin Verlander, who are a win away from winning their second World Series title in three seasons.

While the Yankees starting rotation did not belong anywhere near some of the more elite groups in baseball, the decision to remove Rothschild suggests that the Yankees believed there was plenty more to the pitching coach could have done to get the most out of his staff. JOE PANTORNO

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# HEY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, LET'S GET THIS ROBO UMP SHOW ON THE ROAD

## PANTORNO'S PERCH



**JOE PANTORNO**  
@JoePantorno

Sunday night saw the Houston Astros take a 3-2 lead in the World Series, which is all fine and dandy for most neutral baseball fans watching the Fall Classic.

But once again, we saw another heinous display of officiating that will only push the game that much closer to instituting robotic umpiring.

Lance Barksdale was the latest example of everything that's wrong with the human-error factor that comes with human beings calling balls and strikes at a baseball game.

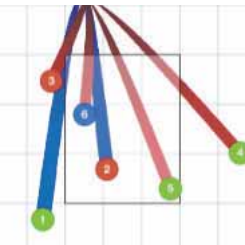
Several questionable — and blatantly bad — rulings behind the dish played a direct factor in helping the Astros secure the Series lead, although the Nationals took the high road and tipped their proverbial caps to the brilliance that is Houston's ace, Gerrit Cole.

With two outs in the fourth inning of a 2-0 game, Washington spot starter Joe Ross — who performed admirably in place of the injured Max Scherzer — appeared to

have struck out Carlos Correa with an 0-2 slider that nicked the outside corner of the plate.

Barksdale called it a ball. Four pitches later, Correa launched a two-run home run to double Houston's lead.

In the sixth inning, which was a 1-2-3 inning, Tanner Rainey was forced to throw extra pitches to Michael Brantley because catcher Yan Gomes stood up too quickly when a 2-2 four-seam fastball was as perfect of a strike-three pitch as you'd see (No. 5).



I've defended baseball with all my soul this past decade, but that's just inexcusable:

Barksdale's dubious evening continued in the seventh when he snuffed out a Nationals rally in a 4-1 game.

With a runner on first and two outs, Barksdale called a Cole offering that was high and outside strike three to end the inning and send the Nationals bench into

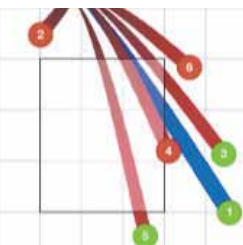


Victor Robles was controversially called out on strikes to snuff out a Nationals rally during Game 5 of the World Series on Sunday night. GETTY IMAGES

a frenzy.

Was it a close pitch? Sure. But if you're umpiring in the World Series, you have to be better than that.

Pitch No. 6 is the one Barksdale sent Robles out on:



This is the best you have to offer, MLB?

I'd like to consider myself a baseball purist.

My main argument was that if it wasn't broken for the first 150 years of baseball's existence, why fix it now?

But the collection of umpires that are responsible for calling balls and strikes is broken. It's time to bring in the robots.

An automated strike zone would ensure that it's the players — not the umpires — deciding every single aspect of a game rather than leaving it up for constant interpretation and debate all season long.

It's been used in the lower leagues of America's baseball system and has been a revelation — at least, in my opinion.

I went to the first-ever game that used the automated strike zone, which was an Atlantic League (independent ball) game on Jul. 25 between the Long Island Ducks and New Britain Bees.

With a 6:35 p.m. ET first pitch, I watched a game that saw 10 runs scored (the Ducks won 9-1) and I was back in my car on my way home before 9 p.m.

Granted, there was also a pitch clock and time limits to address MLB commissioner Rob Manfred's overwhelming concern for the "pace of play."

If you didn't know there was an automated strike zone, you wouldn't

have even known it was there. There is still an umpire behind the plate and he is radioed whether a pitch was a ball or a strike.

Then he signals the call milliseconds after the pitch crosses the zone.

It's that easy. And there are no unnecessary stoppages in play for managers or players to moan about missed calls.

If the Atlantic League can get this right, Major League Baseball can certainly figure this out. Because right now, we're left talking about guys like Lance Barksdale and Angel Hernandez deciding games rather than the players on the field.

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2007-A3, Plaintiff against RIPA AHMED,  
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# 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 15th day  
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Street, Woodside, N.Y. 11377.  
(Block: 131, Lot: 7).  
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Index No. 7274-13.  
Frank Bruno, Jr., Esq., Referee.  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff  
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## GAMES

## ACROSS

- 1 Send a parcel  
5 Reigned  
10 Noisy bird  
14 Commotion  
15 \_\_\_ as the hills  
16 Bee colony  
17 Pinnacle  
18 Chagrined  
20 Verily, in the bible  
21 Lean-to  
22 Fib tellers  
23 Procrastinator's word  
25 Neither's companion  
26 Excuses  
28 Large Arizona city  
31 High-powered surgical beam  
32 Express gratitude to  
34 Bigwig, for short  
36 Actor Brad  
37 Uses a Kindle  
38 "\_\_\_ job!"; cry to a deadbeat  
39 \_\_\_ Lanka

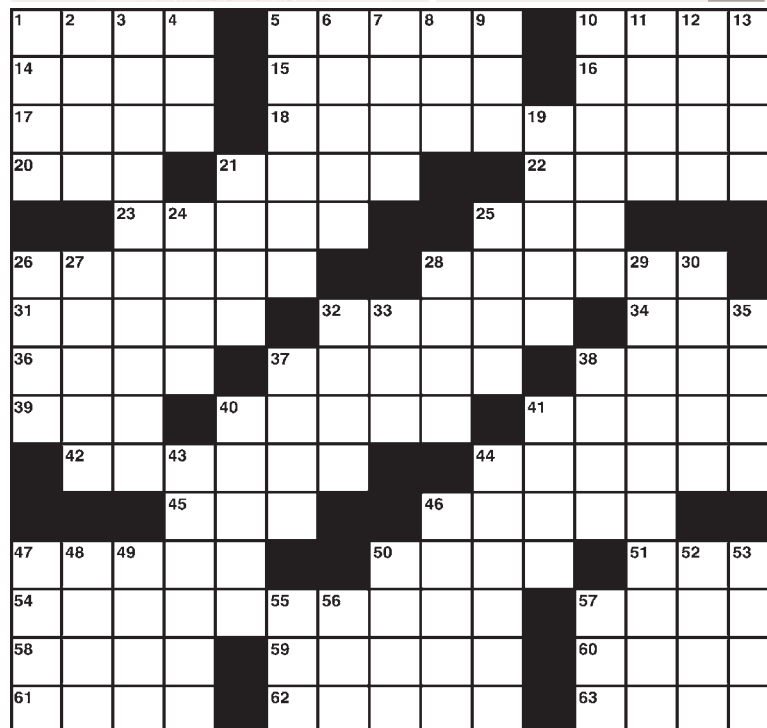
## metro.us/crossword

- 40 Nourishes  
41 Knox & Worth  
42 Climbed  
44 Forevermore  
45 Papa  
46 Old French currency  
47 Thief  
50 Cut coupons  
51 "... \_\_\_ the season to be jolly..."  
54 Appalling  
57 Puerto  
58 Prayer closing  
59 Actress Delta  
60 \_\_\_ though; albeit  
61 Cribbage markers  
62 Relinquishes  
63 NBA team

## DOWN

- 1 Remain  
2 Opposite of despair  
3 Starry-eyed  
4 Viral disease  
5 Psoriasis symptoms  
6 Theater employee  
7 Burden  
8 Common street name  
9 Ike's initials  
10 Seats  
11 Costa \_\_\_  
12 Bowl \_\_\_; impress

- greatly  
13 Ties the knot  
19 Group of sheep  
21 Recipe verb  
24 Aid in crime  
25 Religious sisters  
26 Mont Blanc's range  
27 Hideaways  
28 Small amounts  
29 Hyper  
30 \_\_\_-gritty; what is essential  
32 \_\_\_ off; irritated  
33 "Mary \_\_\_ a little lamb..."  
35 Football maneuver  
37 Wind instrument  
38 Long dress  
40 Bit of dandruff  
41 Part of an envelope  
43 Decorates  
44 Gets up  
46 Odd stroke of luck  
47 British fellow  
48 European capital city  
49 West Coast state: abbr.  
50 Drape puller  
52 Actor & rapper  
53 Family members  
55 CBS competitor  
56 Still unpaid  
57 Cartoon dog

Powered by  
ArkadiumCheck your answers  
at metro.us/games

BY TCA

## metro.us/wordsearch



Beetle  
Byers  
Dracula  
Heathers  
Joyce

Juice  
Lucas  
Mermaids  
Mr. Deeds  
Ryder

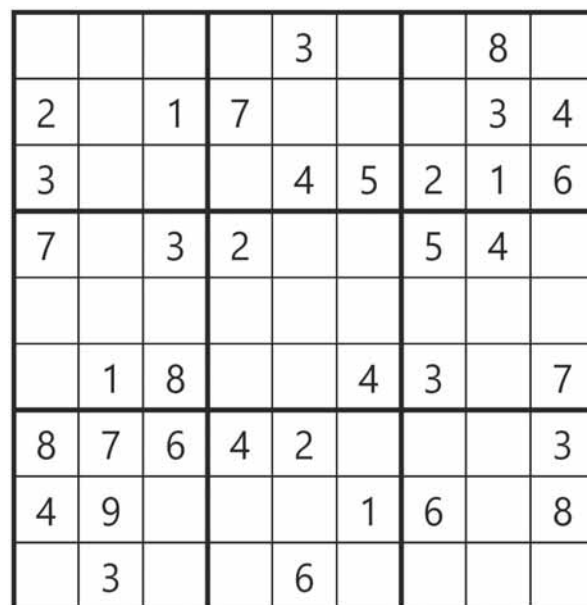
Sawyer  
Stranger  
Things  
Veronica  
Winona

## Category: Rhyme Time



Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

## metro.us/sudoku



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ANYWHERE

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